MISSION: INTEGRATION

HANFORD MISSION INTEGRATION SOLUTIONS NEWSLETTER

MISSION: CONSERVATION

August 2021

HMIS wildlife biologists continue to protect animals across Hanford's diverse landscape.

HMIS
HANFORD MISSION INTEGRATION SOLUTIONS

WHAT'S INSIDE

**Some photos in this issue were taken prior to re-instatement of COVID-19 safety protocols.*

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

As the husband of a teacher and father of two (both now considered "adults"), I know how stressful the month of August can be – getting back to school while trying to squeeze out extra moments of fun in the sun – all while working, maintaining a household and more. Add to that the ongoing stress stemming from the pandemic – and we all have a lot on our plates. I am extremely proud of the strength and resilience of this team – you continue to work hard in support of our One Hanford mission and together with DOE and our other Hanford contractors, we have made incredible progress.

Stress, no matter the cause, impacts each of us differently. It's important to remember to take a step back and/or ask for help when necessary. If we let stress interfere with our mindset at work, we put the safety of ourselves and those around us at risk. Maintain your situational awareness at all times, know your own limits and watch out for signs of stress in those around you. Stay safe, stay healthy and keep up the great work!

Bob

SPECIAL MESSAGE

Contributors: Darci Teel & Mike Wilson

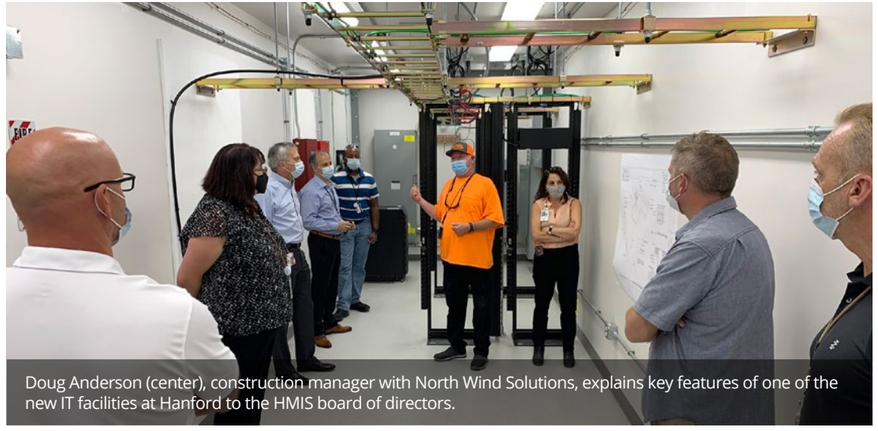
Conservation is more than a word to many of us at Hanford and especially to those who work in the Mission Assurance organization. We're proud of the conservation efforts across the organization and entire company – from wildlife restoration to historical artifact preservation to maintaining our environmental certification, we are walking the walk and talking the talk when it comes to conservation. This month, we were proud to present the winners of our Environmental Leadership Awards Program – there were many incredible nominations which demonstrate the level of commitment of the HMIS team. Congrats to **Emily Norris** and **April Johnson** and all the nominees!

Thank you to everyone who makes an effort when it comes to conservation and environmental leadership – both at work and at home. Your efforts DO make a difference and we're proud to work with all of you.

President's Life Saving Award

Thanks to the quick response of four people – a member of our team got immediate medical attention during an emergency. Libby Butler, Dalton Morgan, Sergio Galeana and Chris Holway received the President's Life Saving Award after they heard a fellow coworker in distress and rushed to assist. "It was the quick response that Chris Holway provided that made it more successful for the person with the emergency," shared Libby. "He is a Basic Medic First Aid at HAMMER and I think that really played a part in the response to getting the employee the help needed." The group helped monitor the person until paramedics arrived and the worker is doing better now. By having an awareness of their surroundings and concern for others, each person received this well-deserved honor.

The President's Life Saving Award recipients, (L-R) Libby Butler, Dalton Morgan, Sergio Galeana and Chris Holway.



Doug Anderson (center), construction manager with North Wind Solutions, explains key features of one of the new IT facilities at Hanford to the HMIS board of directors.

A 200E communications tower was a key stop for the HMIS board of directors while exploring the Site's IT infrastructure during a recent meeting in Richland.

HMIS Board Connects with IT Infrastructure

Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg

The HMIS board of directors held its recent meeting in Richland, providing members an opportunity to see the Hanford Site's IT infrastructure first-hand and learn how HMIS is building a connected enterprise. Stops during the site visit included facilities that house critical emergency services, meteorological and wireless HLAN services, as well as the 400-foot met tower. Multiple organizations across HMIS are working together to reduce the IT footprint at Hanford, while increasing redundancy to provide better, more reliable coverage.

HMIS' board members provide strategic planning and oversight while supporting the HMIS executive team in their mission at Hanford. Board members include Bill Johnson, operations manager, commercial energy, Leidos, and HMIS board chairman; Christian Alexander, president, engineered systems, Parsons; James Carlini, chief technology officer, Leidos; Paul Donahue, chief executive officer, Centerra Group, LLC; Eric Freeman, senior vice president, integrated missions operation, civil group, Leidos; Steven Hafner, chief operations officer, DOE programs, Centerra Group, LLC; and Kelly Hernandez, chief financial officer, civil group, Leidos.

Keeping Hanford Humming

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Whether it's supplying power, helping customers meet deadlines or supporting new projects, Electrical Utilities keeps things humming on the Hanford Site.

EU lineman Britt Farnsworth adds a connection to a power pole in support of work done by CPCCo.

Recently, meter relay techs worked with Engineering to upgrade a substation protective relay, which detects defective equipment. This project was for one of the main substations on the site, supplying power to the Central Plateau. The upgrade took the system from analog to digital, adding safety and efficiency. But the process was tedious. "There's a lot of testing involved," said Matt Parkhill, projects and programs manager for EU. "There are about 16 breaker-cubicle-doors to cycle through and it takes about four weeks each." The newer digital relays provide fault information – notifying of an abnormal current or outage – which could come from weather, a bird on a line, or debris. Of the four substations on the site, this is the third to be upgraded to the digital relays. "Upgrades translate into cost savings thanks to fewer spare parts, more data and faster response times," said Parkhill.

Linemen also added an electrical connection to the side of a pole to help with power for cleanup work done by CPCCo. Known as a riser, it helps connect a high voltage line to a portable substation.

(L-R): Shane Breitenfeldt, Phil Mattheus, and Anthony Galaviz test a relay substation while upgrading it from analog to digital.

The wide range of jobs, skills and projects completed makes our EU group invaluable on the Hanford Site!

Representatives of HMIS, CPCCo, WRPS, WSU-TC and CBC took part in a one-day event hosted by Workforce Solutions to examine current internship programs and how to best align with degrees offered at WSU-TC and CBC.

Paving a Path for Future Talent

Contributor: Cerise Peck

Hanford's future workforce may be sitting in a classroom today, and there is a plan to help bring the best talent to the site. Our Workforce Solutions organization hosted an event with other Hanford contractors, as well as partners at Washington State University Tri-Cities and Columbia Basin College, to strengthen the link between higher education and Hanford jobs available.

As the site integrator, our goal in this endeavor is to grow, tweak and refine existing programs while collaborating with others. Groups gathered at HAMMER to find ways to maximize our resources and share ideas. HR specialist Maureen Gore said the benefits of the event snowballed, "The excitement grew, and it was clear to see we are only scratching the surface."

One of the main topics of focus was on existing internship programs offered by each contractor, as well as the career services available from the schools. Programs at WSU-TC and CBC help guide students into on-demand careers aligned with their interests, while making sure skills learned in the classroom can relate to the jobs of tomorrow.

"There is a wealth of opportunity in this partnership that reaches far beyond internships," said Gore. "We have only just begun what will be an exciting collaboration on bringing the talent of this community into our workforce."

From here, the teams plan to champion for continued collaboration to pave the way for local graduates to build the workforce of the future across the Hanford Site.

Workforce Solutions team members chat with other representatives from CPCCo, WRPS, WSU-TC and CBC regarding future goals and collaboration.

The Role of the Rep: It's All About Safety!

Contributors: Robin Wojtanik & Kevin Schoonover

Safety is our first priority at Hanford and it's the full-time job of our HMIS safety representatives! This includes 2 representatives for the Hanford Guards Union on Hanford Patrol and 7 representatives for the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council.

Often called a "safety rep," these important members of our team speak for you when it comes to taking part in reviews of safety incidents, investigations, and safety assessments. It's their goal to increase employee involvement in resolving problems with safety programs and performance assurance initiatives. If needed, they also serve as a point-of-contact in the stop work process. Kevin Schoonover has served as a HAMTC safety rep for 5 years and became lead rep last year, "It can be challenging to work through issues with management and workers, but the sense of collaboration and teamwork can be very rewarding."

Safety reps often assist DOE and contractors in resolving concerns about health, safety, or the environment. They'll act as the main point-of-contact to keep a worker's perspective at the forefront. Additionally, safety reps act as a worker advocate in top- and mid-level staff meetings to resolve safety issues that arise. They look for potential trends in injuries or illnesses to determine if changes should be made. HMIS safety reps also mentor employees in the Voluntary Protection Program, and this has, no doubt, contributed to our many years as a VPP STAR program. The safety rep program is also credited with a significant reduction in formal resolutions due to safety concerns or grievances.

The culture of safety built for many years on the Hanford Site, and incorporated from the start with HMIS, comes from a desire to exceed expectations and ensure every member of the HMIS family returns home safely each day.

HAMTC


Billy Brown


Danny Elmo


Kevin Schoonover


Marc Regimbal


Mike Day


Rocky Simmons


Vince Zorich

HGU


Brianna DeLine


Delmer Graham

SAFETY REP CONTACTS:

HAMTC
Kevin Schoonover ..... (509) 930-8745

HGU
Briana DeLine ..... (509) 376-3617
Delmer Graham ..... (509) 376-0133

The first virtual HMIS Green Belt training class graduated 32 students.

Congrats to Inaugural HMIS Green Belt Class

Contributors: Holly Munroe, Annika Reams & Tracy Desmond

We are proud to announce the graduation of the inaugural HMIS Green Belt training class. A highly competitive nomination process resulted in 32 Hanford Site employees selected to participate in the 40-hour training. The integrated class included participants from DOE Hanford, HMIS, CPCCo, WRPS and HPMC OMS.

The Operating Excellence program partnered with Rutgers University to sponsor the first virtual Green Belt training for the Hanford Site.

Students attended eight half-day sessions over two months and completed homework assignments. Trainees received instruction on the tools and methodologies of Lean Six Sigma improvement techniques. These techniques are integrated into the Operating Excellence process, the preferred method for continuous improvement at Hanford.

Green Belt training gives employees the tools necessary to identify opportunities for improvement and support structured improvement activities that enable organizations to work smarter, more efficiently and effectively. Trained Green Belts support facilitation of structured improvement activities at Hanford to earn Green Belt certification.

The Operating Excellence team continues to develop and support over 160 certified and trained Black Belts and Green Belts at Hanford and has provided 9 Lean Six Sigma training classes in Richland since 2013.

> *"This experience has broadened my skill set, which will assist my company in driving continuous improvement across Hanford. I look forward to using these new tools and I cannot thank everyone enough for allowing me to participate in Green Belt training." – Kristena Huston, CPCCo*

We look forward to the collaborative innovation these newly trained professionals will bring to further enable the advancement of the One Hanford mission.

Meet the Team: Sign Shop

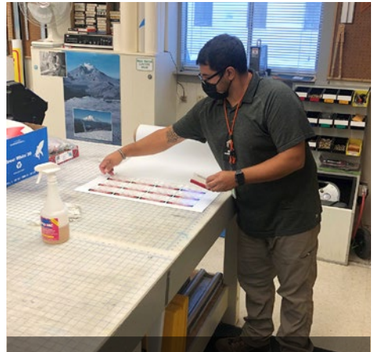
Contributor: Melissa Ver Steeg

Signs are an inevitable part of our everyday lives, guiding our decisions, informing us of safety concerns or security measures, and giving us directions to find everything from restrooms to historic landmarks. There is no shortage of sign types or the messaging and information they provide. This holds true on the Hanford Site, where our sign shop produces thousands of signs in support of the One Hanford mission.

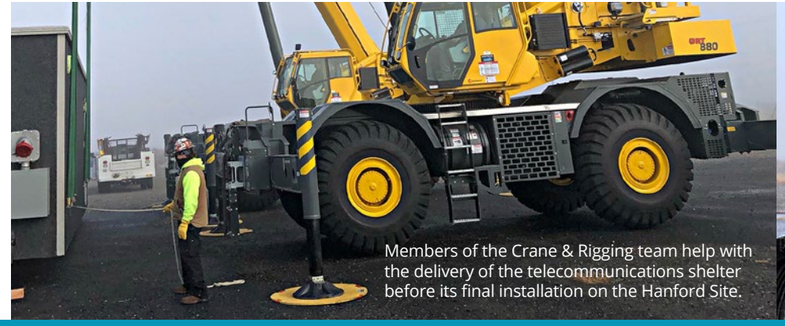
Sign painters Bruce Dickey, Christina DeLeon, Isidro Mendoza, Chance Overholt, Heidi Pickard, and Katie Rodriguez have diverse backgrounds, ranging from graphic design to print and fabrication, with skills that lend themselves to supporting the unique needs across the Site. The team creates and installs vehicle wraps, billboards, safety banners, posters, wall graphics, and decals/labels – and that barely scratches the surface! From hand lettering to magnetic signs, buttons and cut vinyl, if there is a signage need at Hanford, this team is there to execute it.

The HMIS values, printed on and cut from vinyl, are installed by sign painter Bruce Dickey.

Sign shop work can be found around almost every corner at Hanford, including radiological and beryllium postings, fire control, traffic road signs, ecological and biological postings and much more. If you can't find what you need in the extensive inventory of signs available in the service catalog, the team is ready to develop custom signage to support Hanford's needs. "Our job as sign painters is to be part of the entire process, from concept to design, fabrication and installation," said sign shop lead, Bruce Dickey. "We have a professional team with a lot of experience and talent."



Sign painter Isidro Mendoza creates magnetic signs for a project at WESF, one of the many types of signage produced at the sign shop.



Members of the Crane & Rigging team help with the delivery of the telecommunications shelter before its final installation on the Hanford Site.

Telecom Building Complete

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

A new telecommunications building is now operational on the Hanford Site. It will serve as the basecamp for supporting important wireless infrastructure, primarily emergency communications. The project is a key piece of the effort to cut back the footprint of equipment installed on Gable Mountain. The telecommunications building will operate in conjunction with the 400-foot meteorological tower.

This project began more than a year ago under Mission Support Alliance, when the Engineering group assisted with approving the design. The team also surveyed the installation site to confirm it would work for the prefabricated structure. "The Engineering team did a great job pulling together all of the requirements for the design of this facility to make sure all of the end users would be satisfied," said Grant Ryan, chief engineer.

When the telecom shelter arrived in December, our Crane & Rigging team planned a special lift using two cranes to hoist the building off the truck. It weighs 43-tons – about as heavy as seven elephants!

From there, our Information Management team tackled the interior, adding systems to provide redundant coverage across the Hanford Site for meteorological systems, communication for first responders and notification systems. The fiber lines alone will be important for facilities around the Central Plateau, where much of Hanford's cleanup is focused.

Thanks to the important work of many teams, this telecommunications building can provide critical weather data and communications to serve the Hanford Site for years to come.

Biologists Cole Lindsey and Becky Elias take a small tissue biopsy of Townsend's ground squirrels to help study Hanford's declining population of the species.

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Conserving Hanford Wildlife

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Our wildlife biologists continue to protect animals across Hanford's diverse landscape. They recently teamed with the state's Department of Fish & Wildlife to study Townsend's ground squirrels, which look nothing like the tree squirrels found in many neighborhoods! Sadly, there are fewer Townsend's ground squirrels in Washington these days, landing the species on the State Candidate list as a conservation concern.

"Townsend's ground squirrels are an important species that provide ecological functions. They serve as prey to many predators, shape soil fertility and plant production through burrowing and feeding, and furnish burrow habitats for other species," said Justin Wilde, wildlife biologist.

Surveys by our wildlife team corroborated a severe decline of ground squirrels on the Hanford Site. HMIS biologists helped collect tiny tissue samples from Townsend's ground squirrels at an offsite location that will serve as a reference. Genetic analysis will look for a tie between the healthy population and the depleting one and see if some animals may be safely relocated to help rebuild the community on the Hanford Site.

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Wildlife biologists also worked to band Burrowing Owls living inside artificial burrow systems at Hanford. Since early 2018, teams began adding nesting habitats to help slow the decline of the burrowing owl population, a species also on the State Candidate list. Banding owls allows for easier tracking of the population and its recovery. This summer, HMIS biologists added bands from WDFW to the legs of 21 chicks and one adult. This will help several agencies better understand and support regional owl conservation as one of the measures taken to protect Hanford's natural resources.

A young Burrowing Owl sports a small band around its leg to help researchers understand a more complete life history when the owl is captured or seen.

Native grass and locally sourced shrub seed have started to germinate after being dropped on the Hanford Site to restore habitat.

Emily Norris (left) and April Johnson were recognized for their work restoring Gable Mountain habitat as part of the Environmental Leadership Awards Program.

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Restoring Fire Damage Results in ELAP Win

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Congrats to our Mission Assurance biologists for their overall win in HMIS' Environmental Leadership Awards Program! Chosen from multiple submissions, Emily Norris and April Johnson received the award for outstanding stewardship in helping restore Gable Mountain following a fire.

"It's exciting to see the impactful work by all nominated individuals and recognize how influential they are in improving environmental performance," said Michelle Oates, who coordinates the Environmental Leadership Awards Program.

After flames scorched 5,500-acres last summer, the MA team quickly mobilized to head up an aerial seeding project. It needed to happen in time for the next planting window, requiring 100+ hours of work to complete post-fire surveys, procure funding, and acquire over 70,000 pounds of native seed to restore critical sagebrush habitat.

Rather than purchase less environmentally suitable products, Norris and Johnson chose seed that supported sustainable acquisition practices. This included locally-sourcing for the three distinct ecological areas that burned to match existing plants and habitat. This also avoided greenhouse gas emissions caused by shipping non-native seed and offered the best chance for habitat restoration. April and Emily coordinated with a subcontractor for a helicopter drop of the native grass and shrub seed. A new technique for Hanford, the aerial application offered a $2.3 million cost savings versus re-seeding by tractor.

"This restoration provides erosion control, replaces lost habitat and prevents the overtaking of invasive species that may seek to fill the once mature sagebrush found around Gable Mountain," said Emily. Most recently, the remote shrub-steppe provided a home to black-tailed jackrabbits and sagebrush sparrows and remains an important area to northwest tribes.

Biologists have already seen evidence of new growth and will continue to monitor target areas for five years. One of the first large scale post-fire reseeding efforts on the Hanford Site, the project sets a precedent for improved environmental stewardship. Congrats April and Emily for your ELAP win and thank you to all who submitted project entries!

(Cont'd)

The controller (right) for the "Little Toot" train car used at Hanford during the Cold War era recently became eligible for DOE's Manhattan Project and Cold War Collection.

Alex Cuello and Vladimir Cartagena (right) move an old telephone booth to the WSU Tri-Cities Hanford History Project repository during the move of the collection off-site in 2016.

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Curating Hanford's History

Contributors: Melissa Ver Steeg & Robin Wojtanik

Hanford's rich history reaches well beyond its 580-square-mile border. From early Native Americans who lived on the land to production of plutonium that impacted the world, the Hanford Site holds a story that warrants preservation for future generations. Through the collection of historical artifacts from the site, the Program and Regulatory Compliance group helps bring Hanford's history to the public.

"Being part of this program, I've learned so much about the innovations that happened when new technology was developed here," said Mary Petrich-Guy, Curation Services. "I'm glad we are part of the process to make Hanford's history available to our community."

When an artifact is found, the team within the Mission Assurance organization begins the process of evaluating it for historical significance, working with object custodians to determine the next steps, and collecting items available for public release. Artifacts determined to have historical or archaeological significance go through a clearance process for removal from the site to be curated. Recently, the controller for a train car was made eligible

(Cont'd)

for DOE's Manhattan Project and Cold War Collection of artifacts. The controller operated the "Little Toot" electric train car. A workhorse of the plutonium production era, it ferried items from the Plutonium Uranium Extraction Plant into storage tunnels. This controller is considered significant and helps tell the story of plutonium production in the nuclear age.

Items in DOE's Manhattan Project and Cold War Collection are transferred to WSU Tri-Cities and curated at the Hanford History Project repository. Archaeological artifacts from the Hanford Site are curated at the Wanapum Heritage Center repository. Historical items have previously been loaned to the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., the Northwest African American Museum in Seattle, and, locally, to The REACH Museum. The Hanford History Project provides the public, researchers, and students with a unique opportunity to learn about the site's significance in national and global history.

**Federal law protects archaeological sites and artifacts. Hanford employees who discover an archaeological site or artifact should contact their manager, environmental organization and/or a Cultural and Historic Resources Program representative immediately.*

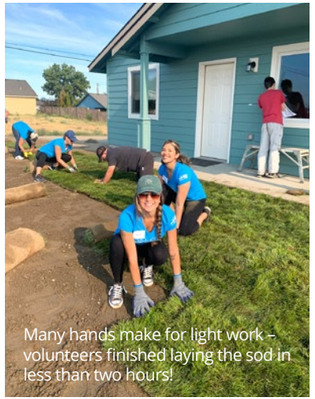
Community Check Presentations

As part of our community commitment plan, HMIS will make several charitable contributions to local organizations each year. We were lucky enough to make two in-person check presentations recently, where members of the HMIS family also had a chance to learn more about the organizations and say thank you to their staff.

HMIS donated $1,500 to Chaplaincy Health Care to help offset the $150,000 of charity care it provides each year to members of our community.

In addition to organizing a volunteer event, HMIS made a $5,000 donation to our local Habitat for Humanity. The rising cost of building supplies makes donations like this critical to Habitat's ability to provide quality, affordable homes in the Tri-Cities.

Thank you to the following volunteers for their hard work (left to right): Reneé Brooks, Vicky Armstrong; Libby Butler, Julie Lindstrom; Jill Harvill; Steve Sanders, Peggy Sanders; Angelica Bottineau; André Frausto and Odalys Lopez!



Many hands make for light work – volunteers finished laying the sod in less than two hours!

Habitat for Humanity

In our first official volunteer event as the HMIS Family, employees, subcontractors and loved ones joined in the fun as we put our DIY "skills" to the test in helping out Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers laid sod, did some caulk work, re-staged construction items and cut and taped flooring underlayment throughout a house, having a lot of laughs and fun in the process.

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